not aware regarding observations of Foundation of Food Research and Enterprise to Safety and Hygiene (FRESH) on this issue. However, according to the monitoring study of farm-gate and market samples of fruits and vegetables conducted by All India Coordinated Research Project on Pesticide Residues, out of 359 samples of different fruits analysed, 46% samples were found to contain residues of locally applied pesticides such as'endosulfan, cholorpyriphos, malathion, cypermethrin, carbendazim, mancozeb etc. However, in all these fruit samples, the residues were found to be below the prescribed MRL values.

Further, a total of 592 samples of different vegetables analyzed, about 64% were found contaminated with residues of different pesticides. However, only 9% of the total samples contained resides above their respective MRL values. Pesticides residues in vegetables can be decontaminated to 80 to 100% by washing and cooking.

(c) Government of India is concerned about the contamination of pesticides in fruits and vegetables and a number of steps have been taken to reduce the pesticides residues therein:—

(1) Replacement of old pesticides which are required to be used in high dosages and which persist for a longer period in the environment with newer pesticide molecules, which are used in low volume and are less persistent in the environment;

(2) Judicious use of pesticides being promoted through practice of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) which emphasizes reduced pesticide application;

(3) Promotion of Organic farming;

(4) Increased use of Bio-control agents and Bio-pesticides in agriculture as a replacement of chemical pesticides.

(5) Awareness campaign through Farmers Field Schools to educate farmers about ill effects of pesticides and emphasis on Integrated Pest Management practices.

Assistance to Maharashtra for livestock development corporation

1113. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to provide financial and

other assistance to Maharashtra Government to set up Livestock Development Corporation in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to set up Livestock Research Centre in Chandrapur; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b)The Government of India is not considering to provide any financial assistance for setting up of Livestock Development Corporation in the State of Maharashtra. However, the Maharashtra Livestock Development Board constituted by the Government of Maharashtra has been provided Rs. 8.60 crores during 2003-04 for the implementation of Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding Programme.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

Fish landing centre at Aivekodi, Karnataka

1114. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal from the Karnataka Government for construction of fish Landing Centre and Aivekodi in Uttar Kannada District in respect of which a revised estimate has been submitted to the Central Government on the 17th June, 2003, is pending for clearance; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof and by when it is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) No, Sir. In order to provide safe landing and berthing facilities to various fishing vessels operating from Aivekodi, the proposal of Government of Karnataka for construction of fish landing center there at a cost of Rs. 89.53 lakhs was approved in March, 1995 under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme. The first instalment of Central share of Rs. 10 lakhs was released to the State in March 1995 for taking up the construction work. As per the